United Nations S/2001/290

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 March 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 28 March 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 27 March 2001, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

01-31159 (E) 300301

Annex

Letter dated 27 March 2001 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on the operation of the Stabilization Force (SFOR). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) George **Robertson**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (1-28 February 2001) there were just over 21,000 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all the NATO allies and from 15 non-NATO countries. Stabilization Force (SFOR) troops continued to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations by means of ground and air patrols. Other operations included area security, monitoring the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, monitoring the Entity Armed Forces, conducting weapons storage site inspections, providing support to the international organizations in theatre, and collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest.

2. At the request of the Office of the High Representative, SFOR began to assist the local police and the International Police Task Force (IPTF), starting on 5 February, in providing a safe and security environment in the Sarajevo suburb of Dobrinja, near Sarajevo airport, to help the international arbitrator appointed to resolve issues related to the location of the Inter-Entity Boundary Line. This binding arbitration process relates to requests by about 650 Bosniac families for repossession of their former homes currently occupied by mainly Bosnian Serbs, and is expected to the completed early in April.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

3. The situation in theatre remained calm and stable throughout the reporting period, with the entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement.

4. Over the period, SFOR troops conducted inspections at 141 weapons storage sites and 8 government ordnance factory sites.

5. SFOR troops monitored 349 training and movement activities: 104 Bosnian Serb; 85 Bosniac; 23 Bosnian Croat; and 137 Federation.

6. Over the period, Entity Armed Forces demining teams conducted a total of 53 mine-clearing activities.

Cooperation with international organizations

7. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, IPTF, the Office of the High Representative, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

8. SFOR continues to support the Office of the High Representative in its efforts to establish common institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

9. The 15 per cent reduction of Entity Armed Forces is being verified by SFOR and results are expected by the end of March. In addition, SFOR will support a broad weapons storage site inspection programme to verify the Entity Armed Forces' holdings of equipment limited by article IV of the Dayton Peace Agreement

(tanks, armoured personnel carriers, artillery, combat helicopters and aircraft). The SFOR *Guidance for SFOR/Entity Armed Forces Training* will be released and distributed to Multinational Divisions by the end of March, based on which the Multinational Divisions will develop joint exercises and training with the Entity Armed Forces.

Outlook

10. The overall situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains calm and stable.